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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

December 10, 1965

Congressman Gerald R. Ford
351 House Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Jerry:

I am very much troubled that the Resolution (H.J.Res. 157) offered without advance notice by the Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, Mr. Celler, vests subpoena powers in the Presidential Commission inquiring into the President's assassination fails to give the Commission a legislative purpose. Nowhere in the language of H.J.Res. 157 does there appear the basic requirement set forth in my recently introduced, on the same subject, H.J.Res. 838, that the Commission shall report to the Congress the results of its investigation together with its recommendations, if any, for legislation.

Lacking such a legislative purpose, I fear that recalcitrant or hostile witnesses may have a valid basis for refusing to answer, "for now". It has been written to the effect that investigations lacking a legislative purpose may not constitutionally be authorized to use a compulsory process.

I sincerely recommend that appropriate legislative action be taken to vest the Presidential Commission with a legislative purpose and to avoid any such vesting with a subpoena power.

A copy of H.J.Res. 838 is appended hereto.

Sincerely,

Louis C. Wyman
Louis C. Wyman, H.C.

LCW:dj

cc Members of the Committee
Congressman J. Edgar Hoover

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